

**Mr. Douglas:** While accepting the minister's premise that it is hoped that some other sources can be found to prevent an adverse situation, it seems to me that the minister ought to be able to tell the House that if these other supplies cannot be found he can give the people of British Columbia the assurance that gas will not be exported in large quantities to the United States, some 62 per cent of the production, and leave the local customers in short supply?

● (1130)

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I might remind the hon. gentleman that at least some of the gas going to the United States is going to domestic consumers as opposed to industrial consumers, and I think we would want to think twice about leaving domestic consumers in the cold as opposed to people buying interruptible gas from British Columbia.

[Translation]

SUPPLY OF FUEL OIL IN EASTERN QUEBEC—DISCUSSION  
BETWEEN FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Since the analysis on energy resources tabled by the minister a few weeks ago shows that, as far as eastern Quebec is concerned, stocks of heating fuel will last only 40 days, can the minister say whether, in the discussions he had recently with his Quebec counterpart, he has been assured that sufficient supplies will be obtained for the coming winter season?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, these talks were not on heating fuel, but on the assurance of supply for the Quebec market and for the rest of eastern Canada. The Quebec government and I think that this is a priority in our plans concerning the Canadian oil market.

[English]

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT JURISDICTION OF  
NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD WILL NOT BE REDUCED—  
APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In spite of the fact the National Energy Board was implemented by the government of the right hon. member for Prince Albert—I might say it has done an excellent job within its jurisdiction of handling energy whether in reference to exports or domestic supply—will the Prime Minister assure the House and the country that he does not intend to bring in any legislation or use any political interference to cut down the jurisdiction of that board?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in respect of the first part of the question, I of course share the hon. member's feelings in congratulating the board on having done an excellent job. I am sure it will continue doing that kind of job regardless of what

### Oral Questions

energy policy the government might want to bring before the House.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact the government has procrastinated and taken so long in appointing a new chairman of the board, will the Prime Minister assure the House and the country that the appointment will not be a political one, such as Mr. Pepin, but will be an independent appointment in order that the board can exercise its jurisdiction without government interference?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I have not had occasion to consider the particular candidate to whom the hon. member refers but I will ask for information about this gentleman, and if he is the most competent person proposed I will perhaps consider appointing him.

**Mr. Woolliams:** And that will be another political appointment.

TAR SANDS OIL—POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT  
CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT—REQUEST FOR GENERAL  
POLICY STATEMENT

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising from statements he made on a television program last night. In view of the fact the western oil sands may be the major source of oil for Canada in the 1980s, is the government satisfied to allow 80 per cent control of the Athabasca development to remain in the hands of foreign corporations or is the government proposing to take steps to regain Canadian control either through the Canada Development Corporation or direct government involvement?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think I should say that while I have yet to receive, either from the government of Alberta or from the Syncrude Corporation, details of the project they are planning to put into effect, I recall from the premier's television statement that he was talking about 50 per cent ownership of the pipeline and some higher percentage ownership of the power facility. I think what I should like to do is to get more details about the project before I comment on it. I would have to say that we welcome this initiative and approach by the government of Alberta to try to represent the wider interests of Canadians in this kind of project. As to whether or not the detailed terms would meet that adequately, I would withhold comment until I have received some precise idea of what they are planning to do from either the government or the company.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that in the last number of weeks or months the government has made statements about various aspects of a national petroleum policy in bits and pieces, and in view of the new development by Syncrude in Alberta, may I ask whether the minister can assure the House that he will in a few weeks when parliament resumes, should it adjourn today, make a statement that will collect these various strands of policy he has thrown out in order that the House and the people